

Pt of 7/B



DECLARATION OF ROBERT J. BELETSKY

I, Robert J. Beletsky, do aver and state:

1. I am the inventor in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/370,388 and in charge of Research and Development at Bianchi International, the assignee of this invention.
2. I have read U.S. Patent 6,138,330 to J. A. Galbreath filed February 12, 1999 and issued October 31, 2000.
3. Prior to February 12, 1999, I had been actively working to develop improved edge released telescoping buckles having an overriding lock.
4. In 1998 I made rough sketches of possible buckle designs incorporating an overriding lock.
5. In January of 1999, I asked Carl Eerdmans, who works under me in the Bianchi International Research and Development Department, to prepare computer drawings of three of my different buckle designs, all providing overriding locks. Copies of those designs BELT BUCKLE SET #1, BELT BUCKLE SET #2, AND BELT BUCKLE SET #3 are attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Exhibits A, B, C, respectively. Each of these drawings were approved by me on

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January 27, 1999. The drawings, Exhibits A, B and C, also include witnessing dates by Patent Attorney John E. Wagner as "Read and Understood", and the signature of Mr. Wagner and dated as of February 1, 1999.

6. In the prosecution of this patent application, claims 1-4, 10, 11, and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,138,330 to J. A. Galbreath having a filing date of February 12, 1999.
7. Claims 1, 10, 14, and 15 of my patent application read directly upon the embodiments of Exhibits A, B, and C.
8. Claims 3, 4, 16, and 17 of my patent application read directly upon the embodiments of Exhibit C.
9. Claim 5 of my patent application reads directly upon the embodiments of Exhibits A, B and C.
10. Development continued at our company and BELT BUCKLE SET #4 was drawn under my direction by Carl Eerdmans on February 24, 1999, and witnessed by Mr. John E. Wagner on March 1, 1999. The drawing BELT BUCKLE SET #4 is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit D. This version required the tongue to be depressed upon insertion of the male buckle part into the female buckle part, but all of the claims set forth above continue to read upon Exhibit D.

11. A further refinement in the buckle design was made in April of 1999 in which the button shape was changed from circular to rectangular and the front opening in the female part was changed to match. These changes are reflected in the drawing BIANCHI BUCKLE #4, HOW IT WORKS, drawn by me and dated 4/19/99. This drawing is attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein as Exhibit E. Each of the claims set forth above in Paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 read upon the embodiment shown in Exhibit E.
12. Following completion of Exhibit E, I directed Carl Eerdmans to proceed with producing the drawings Nos. 642095 and 642096, Revision B. These drawings were completed June 10, 1999, and were used to order a prototype buckle from the producer, National Molding Corporation, of Farmington, New York, in early August 1999. These drawings are identified as Exhibit F.
13. The first successful prototype produced was sent from National Molding Corporation to Bianchi International on October 26, 1999. A photograph of this white prototype is identified as Exhibit G.
14. The above chronology represents a usual and typical progression of development in the normal course of business toward producing a new product at Bianchi International.

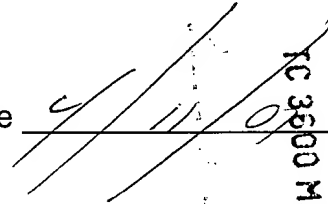
I hereby declare that all statements made herein are true and that all statements made herein on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or document or any registration resulting therefrom.

Signed



Robert J. Beletsky

Date



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I:\Patent\Bianchi\556.Declaration of Robert J. Beletsky.doc



DECLARATION OF CARL EERDMANS

I, CARL EERDMANS, do aver and state:

1. I am employed in the Research and Development Department of Bianchi International, reporting to Robert J. Beletsky, inventor of the subject matter of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/370,388.
2. During 1998, I was aware of a development effort by Mr. Beletsky to design an improved edge released telescoping buckle having an overriding lock. Before February 12, 1999, I made the drawings, identified as Exhibits A, B and C following Mr. Beletsky's direction and his sketches..
3. I later made the drawing under Robert J. Beletsky's direction identified as BUCKLE NO. 4 - HOW IT WORKS dated February 24, 1999, identified as Exhibit D, and was asked to produce working drawings. I then prepared Bianchi International Drawings Nos. 642095 and 642096, Revision B, identified as Exhibit F. To my knowledge, these drawings dated June 10, 1999, were used to request a tooling price quotation and order a prototype buckle to be produced from our drawing from National Molding Corporation of Farmingdale, New York. Bianchi International obtains all its mold's prototypes and molded production parts from outside vendors, particularly National Molding Corporation.

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4. I have seen the white prototype identified as Exhibit G, manually tested it and it worked satisfactorily.

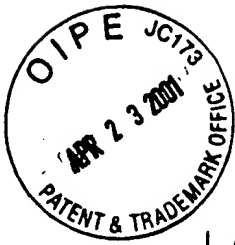
5. It is my understanding and belief that following receipt of this prototype buckle in October of 1999, an order for a quantity of preproduction prototype buckles was placed with National Molding Corporation.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein are true and that all statements made herein on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or document or any registration resulting therefrom.

Signed Carl Eerdmans
Carl Eerdmans

Date April 10, 2001





DECLARATION OF ANTHONY G. LEFEBER

I, ANTHONY G. LEFEBER, do aver and state:

1. I am employed in the Research and Development Department of Bianchi International, reporting to Robert J. Beletsky, inventor of the subject matter of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/370,386.
2. To my knowledge, Mr. Beletsky began the design and development of an improved edge release telescoping buckle in 1998 with rough sketches resulting in a drawing as Exhibit D being completed by co-worker Carl Eerdmans as of February 24, 1999.
3. In April of 1999, an improvement in the buckle design was made in which the button shape was changed from circular to rectangular, and the front opening of the female member changed to match. These changes were reflected in the drawing BIANCHI BUCKLE NO. 4, bearing the name of Robert J. Beletsky and identified as Exhibit E.
4. Bianchi drawing Nos. 642095 and 642096, "Revision B", incorporating further refinements and identifying the material used as Black Acetal were completed June 10, 1999. Since Bianchi International had no facility to mold such parts, the

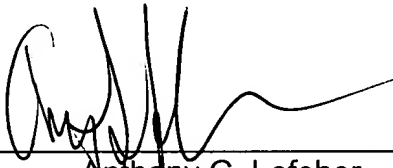
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"Revision B" drawings were sent to National Moldings Corporation (NMC) in early August 1999 with a request for quotation. A tooling quotation was received from NMC bearing a date of August 18, 1999. (Exhibit F)

5. Bianchi International order No. 14873 was written on August 30, 1999, for NMC to build tooling for the buckle parts.
6. A first prototype was sent from NMC to Bianchi on October 11, 1999. This prototype did not operate as intended and required some redesign.
7. A second prototype was review from NMC by Bianchi October 26, 1999, incorporating the redesign. This white prototype operated satisfactorily. It is shown in a photograph identified as Exhibit G.
8. Tooling and preproduction prototypes were ordered after receipt of the second prototype.
9. In my experience, the above chronology represents a usual and typical progression of development toward producing a new product at Bianchi International.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein are true and that all statements made herein on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or document or any registration resulting therefrom.

Signed


Anthony G. Lefeber

Date

4/11/2001

\\Patent\Bbianchi\556.Declaration of Anthony Lefeber.doc



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DECLARATION OF PAUL K. ELDREDGE

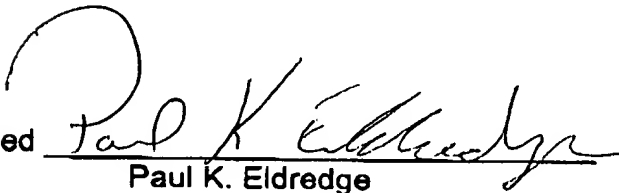
I, PAUL K. ELDREDGE, do aver and state:

1. I am a Product Manager employed by National Molding Corporation.
2. During the course of my employment, I have been involved in the production engineering and production of an edge released telescoping buckle for Bianchi International of Temecula, California
3. At the request of Tony Lefeber of Bianchi International, I prepared a time line covering the ordering, production and delivery of the buckle parts identified as NMC 7568/7569. This time line appears in the attached letter dated February 20, 2001, to Tony Lefeber.
4. National Molding Corporation initially received Bianchi International drawings Nos. 642095 and 642096, Revision B, which are the drawings referred to in my letter of February 20, 2001, as "rev. B part print" received in early August 1999.
5. The second prototype which was sent on October 26, 1999, while not a production engineered design, functioned adequately after a redesign, which was accomplished during October of 1999.

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6. My letter of February 20, 2001, enumerates various steps subsequent to October of 1999 taken in connection with tooling and subsequent production of preproduction samples of the buckle parts.
7. I hereby declare that all statements made herein are true and that all statements made herein on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or document or any registration resulting therefrom.

Signed


Paul K. EldredgeDate MAR. 30, 2001



N A T I O N A L M O L D I N G C O R P O R A T I O N

Tuesday, February 20, 2001

Tony LeFeber
Bianchi International
27969 Jefferson
Temecula, CA 92590



Subject: NMC 7568/7569

Dear Tony:

Per your request, this afternoon here is the time line for the subject parts:

- Received rev. B part print dated 6/25/99 early August 1999.
- Tooling Quotation # 23246, dated august 18, 1999 was sent to Bianchi.
- Bianchi order # 14873 was written on August 30, 1999 for NMC to build tooling.
- NMC work order written and sent to NMC Engineering on 9/7/1999.
- 1st prototype sent on October 11, 1999. Needed to redesigned to function.
- 2nd prototype sent on October 26, 1999. With redesign incorporated into part.
- Placed with toolmaker November 2, 1999.
- 1st off-production tool samples sent 3/26/2000. From toolmaker.
- Mold received 4/10/2000 from toolmaker.
- Final samples with all of the corrections to make the part function properly sent on 6/29/2000.
- Approved by Bianchi on 7/12/2000.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call me at (631) 293-8696.

Sincerely,

Paul K. Eldredge
Duraflex Product Manager

cc: Engineering File
Gary Frazee - NMC Sales Mgr.
John Howard Company

Five Dubon Court, Farmingdale, New York 11735
631.293.8696 / Fax: 631.293.8575 / www.nationalmolding.com

C:\PAUL'S STUFF\02-01\7568-7569 TIME LINE 2-20-1.DOC

NOTES:

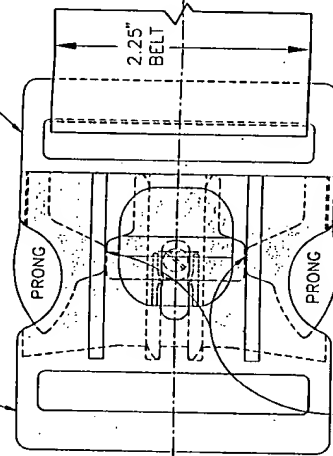
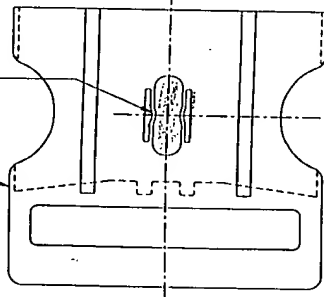
BUCKLE ASSY SHOWN LOCKED

DETENTS
HOLD LOCKOUT TO
LEFT OR RIGHT

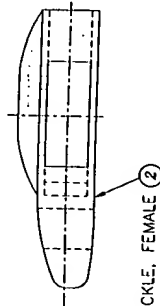
BUCKLE, FEMALE (2)

(2) BUCKLE, FEMALE

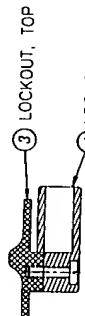
(1) BUCKLE, MALE



THESE LOBES PREVENT
THE PRONGS FROM
TRAVELING INWARD

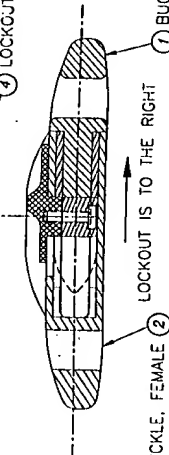


BUCKLE, FEMALE (2)



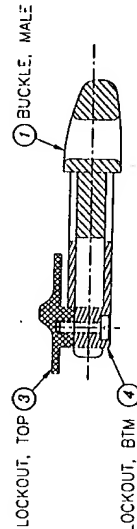
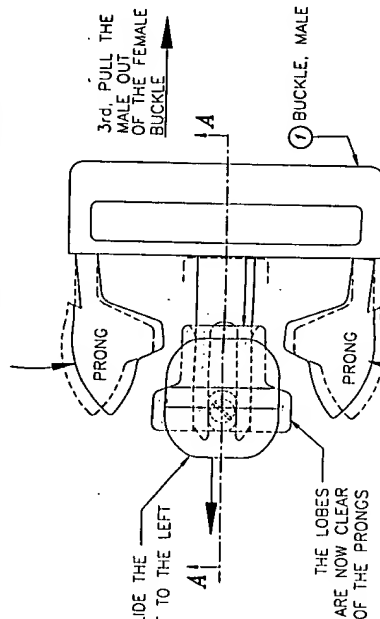
(3) LOCKOUT, TOP

(4) LOCKOUT, BTM



BUCKLE, FEMALE (2)

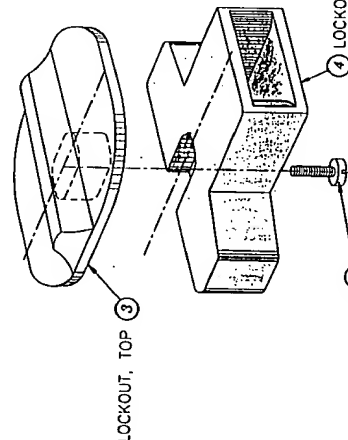
TO RELEASE THE BUCKLE



LOCKOUT, TOP (3)

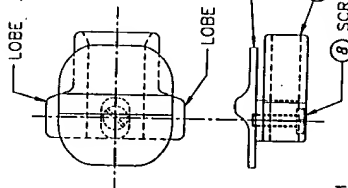
LOCKOUT, BTM (4)

SECTION A-A



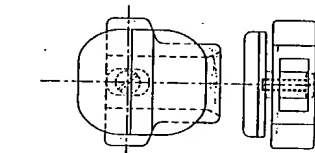
LOCKOUT, TOP (3)

SCREW (8)



(3) LOCKOUT, TOP

(4) LOCKOUT, BTM



(3) LOCKOUT, TOP

(4) LOCKOUT, BTM

REV		DESCRIPTION	DATE	APPROVED
A		INITIAL DESIGN	1/27/99	BOB B.

APPROVALS		DATE	BY
BOB B.		1/27/99	
BOB B.		1/27/99	

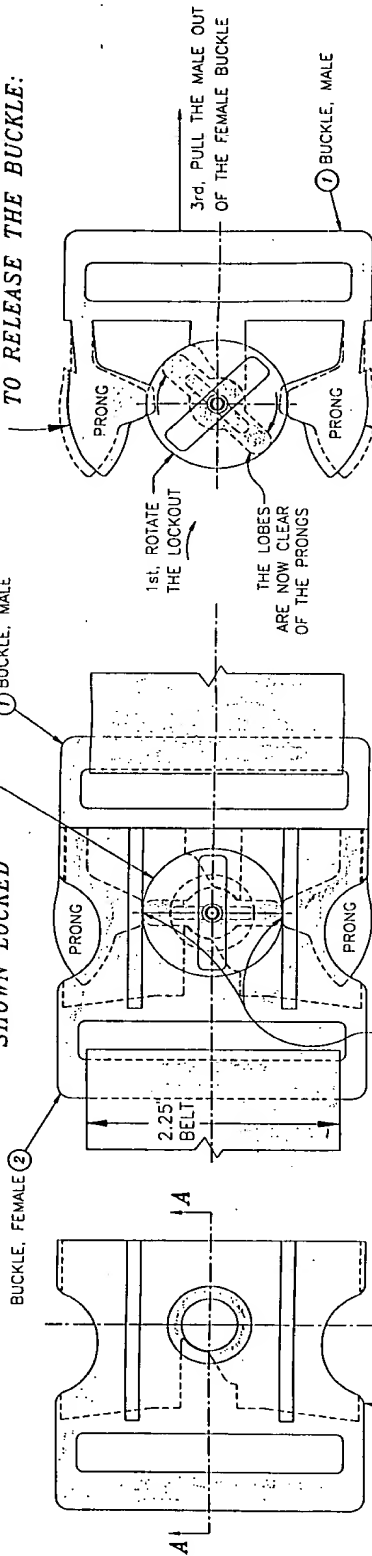
BIANCHI INTERNATIONAL		100 East 10th Avenue, Suite 100, Denver, CO 80202 (303) 733-1811
Belt Buckle Set #1		
FOR 2.25" BELT		
BUCKLE 1		

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. ITS RECEIPT OR DISSEMINATION TO ANY OTHER PARTY WITHOUT THE EXPRESS WRITTEN PERMISSION OF AN OFFICE OF BIANCHI INTERNATIONAL IS PROHIBITED.

NOTES:

REVISIONS		
REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE
A	INITIAL DESIGN	1/27/99
		APPROVED
		BOB B.

BUCKLE ASSY SHOWN LOCKED



THESE LOBES PREVENT
THE PRONGS FROM
TRAVELING INWARD

3 ROTARY LOCKOUT, TOP

4 ROTARY LOCKOUT, BTM

BUCKLE, FEMALE (2)

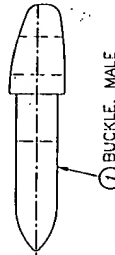
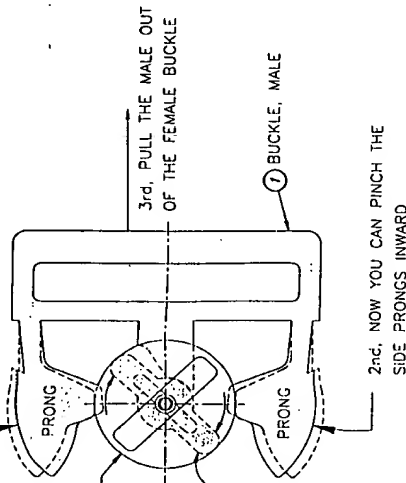
2 BUCKLE, FEMALE

3 ROTARY LOCKOUT, TOP

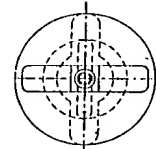
4 ROTARY LOCKOUT, BTM

SECTION A-A

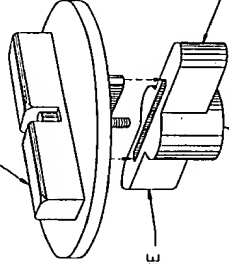
TO RELEASE THE BUCKLE:



1 BUCKLE, MALE

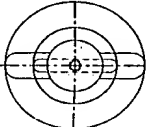


3 ROTARY LOCKOUT, TOP



LOBE


4 ROTARY LOCKOUT, BTM



4 ROTARY LOCKOUT, BTM

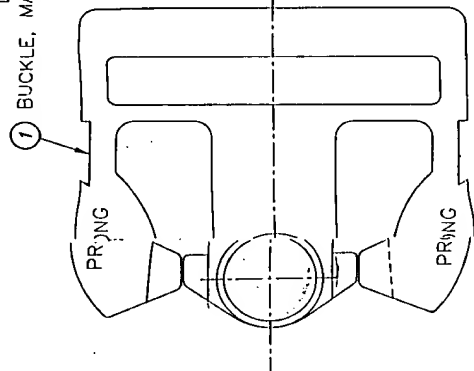
Handwritten signature and date: 1/27/99

BIANCHI INTERNATIONAL		100 East Lombard Avenue, St. Joseph, MO 64506	
APPROVALS	DATE	1/27/99	
BOB B.	1/27/99	1/27/99	
BOB B.	1/27/99	1/27/99	
DO NOT SCALE DRAWING		SCALE	1:1
THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. ITS RECEIPT OR DISSEMINATION TO ANY OTHER PARTY WITHOUT THE EXPRESS WRITTEN PERMISSION OF AN OFFICE OF BUENAS VENTURAS IS PROHIBITED.		BUCKLE2.dwg	
SHEET 1 OF 1		A	

 BLANCH INTERNATIONAL 100 Glen Canyon, Colorado, CO 80500 (303) 474-3513	APPROVALS DATE <small>REL.</small>		BELT BELT BUCKLE, SET #3		16-2 16-2
	BOB B. 1/17/79 BOB B. 1/17/79	FOR 2.25" BELT 1/17/79	16-2 16-2	BUCKLE 3 A	
DO NOT SCALE DRAWING SCALE: 1:1	16-2 16-2	BUCKLED dwg	Belts: 1 or 1		

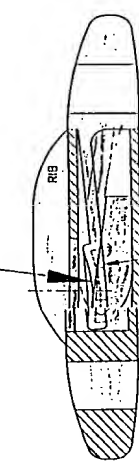
REVISIONS		
REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE
A	INITIAL DESIGN	2/24/99

1 BUCKLE, MALE



1st, PRESS THE BUTTON TO LOWER THE TONGUE UNDER THE CUTOUTS ON THE PRONGS

2nd, WITH THE TONGUE LOWERED, YOU CAN PINCH THE SIDE PRONGS INWARD

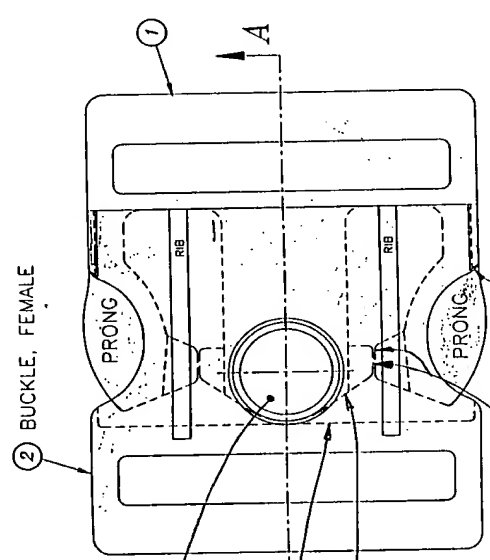


3rd, PULL THE MALE OUT OF THE FEMALE BUCKLE

Bob's copy
FEB. 24, 1999

ALTERNATE DESIGN

2 BUCKLE, FEMALE

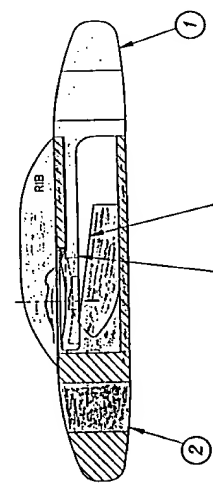


LOCKING POINT ON EACH SIDE

LARGER, EASIER BUTTON

CLEVER INTERIOR SMOOTH HAMMER HEAD SHAPE

MUVE LUGS FORWARD, EASIER TO CLEAR



BUCKLE, FEMALE

7 BUCKLE, MALE

TONGUE CUTOUT ON THE PRONG

BUCKLE ASSY SHOWN LOCKED SECTION A-A

BUCKLE ASSY BEIN RELEASED STEP 1

YOU NEED TO DEPRESS THE TONGUE TO INSERT THE MALE INTO THE FEMALE. THE PRONGS HAVE TO MOVE INWARD UPON ENTRY.

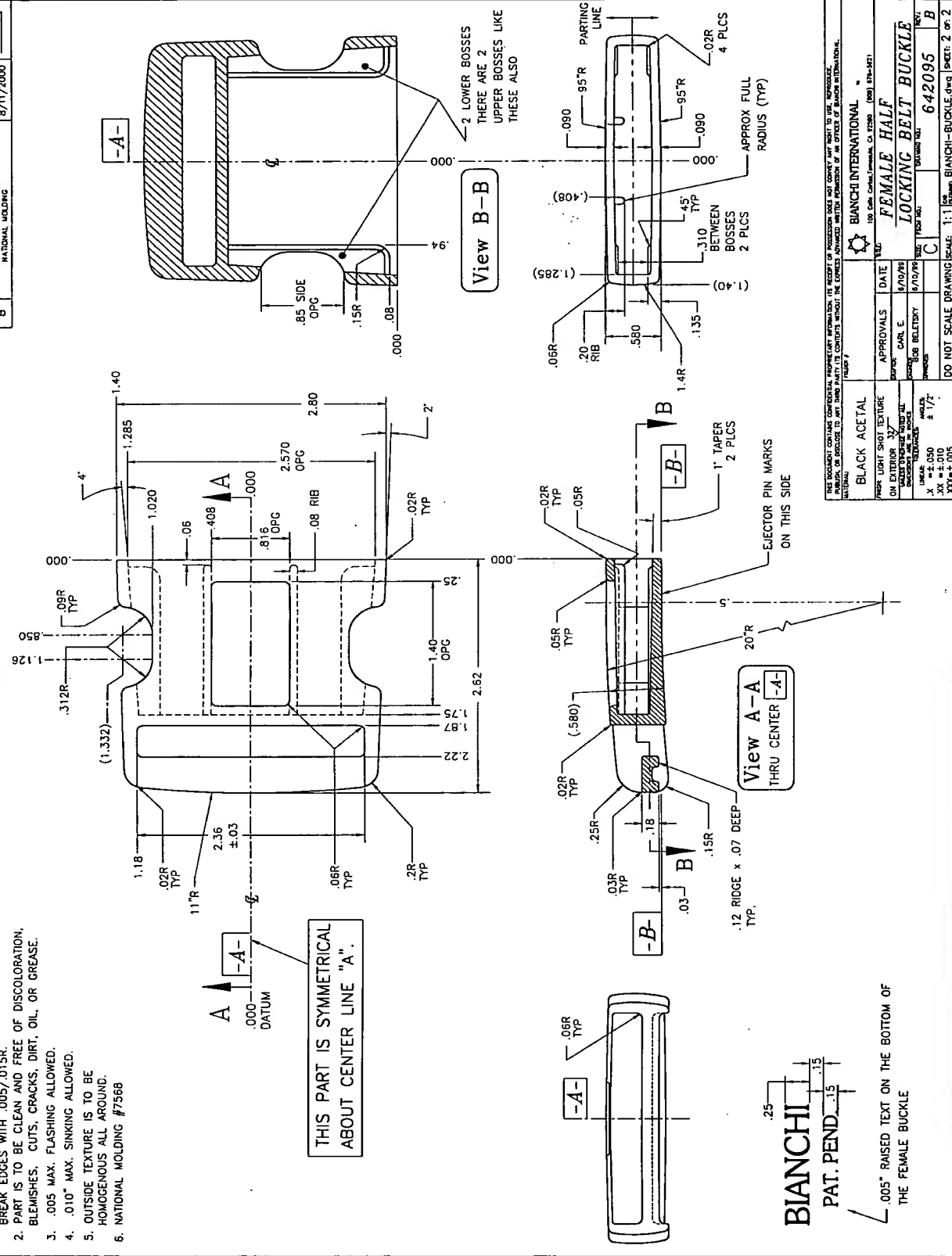
APPROVALS		DATE	TITLE
CARL E	2/24/99		BELT BUCKLE SET #4
DESIGNED		BY	FOR 2.25" BELT
CHECKED		DATE	BUCKLE 4
DO NOT SCALE DRAWING SCALE: 1:1		BUCKLE3.dwg	SHEET 1 OF 1

\\CARL\BELT\BIANCHI-BUCKLE

Exhibit F

REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE	APPROVED
A	INITIAL DESIGN	6/10/99	CARL E.
B	MANY SMALL CHANGES BY NATIONAL MOLDING	8/11/2000	

- NOTES:
1. NO SHARP EDGES OR BURRS.
 2. BREAK EDGES WITH .005/.015R.
 3. PART IS TO BE CLEAN AND FREE OF DISCOLORATION, BLEMISHES, CUTS, CRACKS, DIRT, OIL, OR GREASE.
 4. .005 MAX. FLASHING ALLOWED.
 5. .010" MAX. SINKING ALLOWED.
 6. OUTSIDE TEXTURE IS TO BE HOMOGENEOUS ALL AROUND.
 7. NATIONAL MOLDING #7568



10-30-2000
Tony L.

Exhibit F

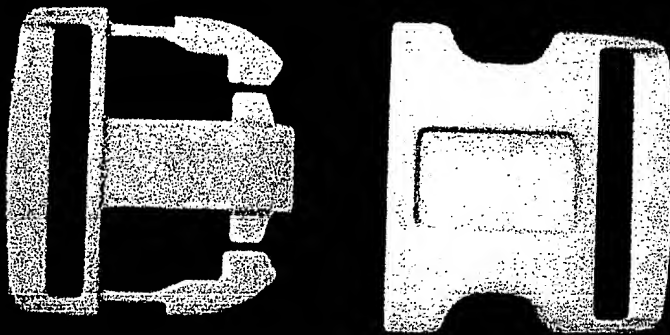


Exhibit G